

MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



Office of Public Information

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MODEL CIVIL JURY INSTRUCTIONS NOW AVAILABLE FOR FREE ONLINE

LANSING, MI, March 24, 2003 – The Model Civil Jury Instructions, once available only for a fee, may now be viewed and copied at no charge on the Michigan Supreme Court’s web site, the Court announced today.

Chief Justice Maura D. Corrigan said the addition to the Court’s website “will permit lawyers, judges, litigants, and others to have ready access to the Model Civil Jury Instructions (MCJI) at no charge. It is a tremendous service to have the MCJI available in the public domain.”

Corrigan added, “I am proud of the Michigan Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions and everyone else involved in this effort. They have helped move our judicial branch forward into the 21st century.”

Corrigan noted that “only a handful of other states have made their standard civil jury instructions available online.”

Civil jury instructions are given in each case tried to a jury. Topics include preliminary instructions regarding the duties of the jury, trial procedure, and the law applicable to the case.

The MCJI were previously available only through the Institute for Continuing Legal Education.

The jury instructions may be viewed at <http://www.courts.michigan.gov/mcji-index.htm>. Features include a table of contents and links to the instructions. Instructions may be highlighted, copied and pasted into a word processing document. The website also includes information on how to contact the Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions in order to comment on existing or proposed jury instructions or to suggest new instructions.

The Model Civil Jury Instructions are adopted by the Michigan Supreme Court Committee on Model Civil Jury Instructions, which is comprised of attorneys and judges appointed to the committee by the Michigan Supreme Court. The committee is charged with

ensuring that the Model Civil Jury Instructions are concise, understandable, conversational, unslanted, and not argumentative.

The committee, which is chaired by Wayne County Circuit Judge William J. Giovan, includes:

- Ann Arbor attorney Thomas H. Blaske
- Detroit attorney Jeffrey A. Brantley
- Lansing attorney David C. Coey
- Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Pat M. Donofrio
- Detroit attorney Mark R. Granzotto
- Monroe County Circuit, Family Division Presiding Judge John A. Hohman, Jr.
- Detroit attorney Maurice G. Jenkins
- Mount Pleasant attorney Steven W. Martineau
- Lansing attorney David S. Mittleman
- Michigan Court of Appeals Judge Christopher M. Murray
- Wayne County Circuit Judge Susan Bieke Neilson
- Oakland County Circuit Judge Wendy L. Potts
- Grand Blanc attorney Michael B. Rizik, Jr.
- Detroit attorney Mary Massaron Ross
- Detroit attorney Kelvin W. Scott
- Macomb County Circuit Chief Judge Pro Tem Judge Deborah A. Servitto
- Grand Rapids attorney Valerie P. Simmons
- Saginaw attorney Scott C. Strattard
- Wayne County Circuit Judge Brian R. Sullivan
- Detroit attorney Susan H. Zitterman

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